

The First 50 Women in Idaho Law

RUBY YOUNGBLOOD BROWN

June 29, 1949

(1911 – 1997)



Ruby Youngblood Brown was born on May 29, 1911 in Green Forest, Arkansas to Elvis M. and Annie E. Graham Youngblood. She grew up in Arkansas and graduated from Green Forest High School in 1929. Brown briefly attended college in Tulsa, Oklahoma from 1930-31, but did not receive a degree. In 1933, she moved to Denver, Colorado and while there met Travis Leroy Brown. On December 8, 1936, she and Brown were married and immediately moved to Pocatello, Idaho.

In October 1938, Brown went to work as a stenographer, office manager and law clerk for Pocatello attorney O. R. Baum. She held this position for ten years, during which time she became interested in studying the law. According to affidavit of Mr. Baum submitted in support of Brown's bar application:

That owing to the amount of interest that [Brown] took in the work [at Baum's office] it soon became very apparent that her adaptability to this type of work was of the highest and by that reason many matters that would generally be handled by a young lawyer in one's office was given to her for consideration; that thereafter and in the year 1940 she advised your affiant that she desired to apply herself to the study of law to the end that she might be admitted.

Given her interest, Mr. Baum began acting as Brown's mentor in the study of the law in 1940. Brown described her usual course of study as: "from eight to nine o'clock in the morning is spent in study, and from seven to ten o'clock in the evening is spent in study work on courses mapped out by O.R. Baum, and then the next day we go over the work I studied the night before and then an outline is given for the next day's study." In addition, for six months in the winter of 1942-43, Brown attended the Walter H. Anderson School of Law, established by local Pocatello attorneys Walter H. Anderson and W. H. Witty.

By late 1942, Brown was ready to sit for the bar exam and the state Bar agreed, but in 1943 her husband entered the armed forces and was required to move. Brown joined her husband, but didn't let the move affect her study the law. While her husband was stationed at Camp White near Medford, Oregon, she worked for attorney Frank P. Farrell in Medford, and when her husband was transferred to Camp Adair near Albany, Oregon, she worked for attorney Edward E. Sox in Albany. Moreover, Brown returned to Pocatello every few months to do Mr. Baum's office accounting work. When Brown's husband was sent overseas in March 1944, Brown returned to Pocatello and worked in Mr. Baum's office on a permanent basis.

In January 1949, Brown was again ready to sit for the Idaho Bar. On June 29, 1949, Brown was admitted as the twenty-third woman to practice law in Idaho. Brown continued to work in Mr.

Baum's office and later practiced law out of her home in Pocatello. Brown was involved in Idaho politics and served as President of the Idaho Federation of Republican Women.

Brown enjoyed flower gardening and was a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She remained married to Travis until his death in 1974.

Brown died at the age of 86 in Pocatello on June 15, 1997.